

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.       In a computer network, a method for locating a resource, comprising:  
2           providing an interface having instructions to send association data;  
3           identifying an identity service using the association data, the identity service  
4           managing resource data; and  
5           locating the resource using the resource data.

1           2.       The method of Claim 1, further comprising performing a specified task  
2           utilizing the resource.

1           3.       The method of Claim 1, wherein the association data includes a client  
2           identifier and a session identifier associated with the interface, and wherein the act of  
3           identifying comprises:  
4           providing the session identifier associated with the interface, identifying the  
5           client identifier included in the association data;  
6           identifying other association data containing that client identifier; and  
7           acquiring at least a portion of the session identifier included in the other  
8           association data.

1           4.       The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of providing comprises  
2           providing a web page having instructions to request a web bug sending association  
3           data containing a cookie and an URL for the web page; and  
4           wherein the act of identifying comprises:  
5           providing the URL to identify the association data containing the  
6           cookie;  
7           identifying other association data containing the cookie; and  
8           acquiring an URL for the identity service from the identified association  
9           data.

1           5.       In a computer network, a method for locating a resource for a user,  
2           comprising:

3 providing an interface having instructions to send association data to two or  
4 more association services;  
5 identifying from the two or more association services, an association service  
6 with which the user has established a relationship;  
7 identifying an identity service using the association data sent to the identified  
8 association service, the identity service managing resource data; and  
9 locating the resource using the resource data.

1 6. In a computer network, a method for locating a resource comprising:  
2 providing a web page having instructions to request a web bug;  
3 requesting the web bug sending a cookie and an URL for the web page;  
4 saving the cookie and the URL for the web page as an entry in an association  
5 table;  
6 querying, providing the URL for the web page, the association table for the  
7 cookie in the entry containing the URL;  
8 identifying other entries in the association table containing the cookie;  
9 identifying from those entries an entry containing an URL for an identification  
10 service, the identification service managing resource data; and  
11 locating the resource using the resource data.

1 7. A method for producing an electronic document, comprising:  
2 generating, upon request from a user, a web page having content for  
3 requesting a web bug from an association service as well as content for displaying  
4 controls for selecting production options;  
5 querying the association service to identify an identity service with which the  
6 user is registered providing an URL for the generated web page;  
7 obtaining the user's resource data from the identified identity service;  
8 locating and accessing a document management service using the resource  
9 data;  
10 providing additional content for the web page for displaying controls for  
11 selecting a document managed by the document management service; and  
12 producing a document according to selections made through the web page.  
13

1           8.     The method of Claim 7, wherein:  
2           the act of generating comprises generating a web page having instructions to  
3 request a web bug sending, to the association service association, data containing a  
4 cookie and an URL for the web page;  
5           the method further comprises saving the association data as an entry in an  
6 association table;  
7           the act of querying further comprises identifying the cookie in the saved entry  
8 using the provided the URL, identifying other association data containing the  
9 identified cookie, and, from the other identified association data, acquiring an URL for  
10 the identity service; and  
11          the act of obtaining the user's resource data comprises obtaining the user's  
12 resource data from the identified identity service using, at least in part, the acquired  
13 URL.

1           9.     A computer readable medium having instructions for:  
2           providing an interface having instructions to send association data;  
3           identifying an identity service using the association data, the identity service  
4 managing resource data; and  
5           locating a resource using the resource data.

1           10.    The medium of Claim 9, having further instructions for performing a  
2 specified task utilizing the resource.

1           11.    The medium of Claim 9, wherein the association data includes a client  
2 identifier and a session identifier associated with the interface, and wherein the  
3 instructions for identifying comprise instructions for:  
4           providing the session identifier associated with the interface, identifying the  
5 client identifier included in the association data;  
6           identifying other association data containing that client identifier; and  
7           acquiring the session identifier included in the other association data.

1           12.    The medium of Claim 9, wherein the instructions for providing  
2 comprise instructions for providing a web page having instructions to request a web  
3 bug sending association data containing a cookie and an URL for the web page; and

4 wherein the instructions for identifying comprise instructions for:  
5 providing the URL to identify the association data containing the  
6 cookie;  
7 identifying other association data containing the cookie; and  
8 acquiring, from the identified association data, an URL for the identity  
9 service.

1 13. A computer readable medium having instructions for:  
2 providing an interface having instructions to send association data to two or  
3 more association services;  
4 identifying from the two or more association services, an association service  
5 with which a user has established a relationship;  
6 identifying an identity service using the association data sent to the identified  
7 association service, the identity service managing resource data; and  
8 locating a resource for the user using the resource data.

1 14. A computer readable medium having instructions for:  
2 providing a web page having instructions to request a web bug;  
3 requesting the web bug sending a cookie and an URL for the web page;  
4 saving the cookie and the URL for the web page as an entry in an association  
5 table;  
6 querying, providing the URL for the web page, the association table for the  
7 cookie in the entry containing the URL;  
8 identifying another entries in the association table containing the cookie;  
9 identifying, from those entries, the entry containing an URL for an  
10 identification service, the identification service managing resource data; and  
11 locating a resource using the resource data.

1 15. A computer readable medium having instructions for:  
2 generating, upon request from a user, a web page having content for  
3 requesting a web bug from an association service as well as content for displaying  
4 controls for selecting production options;  
5 querying the association service to identify an identity service with which the  
6 user is registered providing an URL for the generated web page;

7 obtaining the user's resource data from the identified identity service;  
8 locating and accessing a document management service using the resource  
9 data;  
10 providing additional content for the web page for displaying controls for  
11 selecting a document managed by the document management service; and  
12 producing a document according to selections made through the web page.

1 16. The medium of Claim 15, wherein:  
2 the instructions for generating comprise instructions for generating a web  
3 page having instructions to request a web bug sending to the association service  
4 association data containing a cookie and an URL for the web page;  
5 the medium having further instructions for saving the association data as an  
6 entry in an association table;  
7 the instructions for querying further comprise instructions for identifying the  
8 cookie in the saved entry using the provided the URL, identifying other association  
9 data containing the identified cookie, and, from the other identified association data,  
10 acquiring an URL for the identity service; and  
11 the instructions for obtaining the user's resource data comprise instructions  
12 for obtaining the user's resource data from the identified identity service using, at  
13 least in part, the acquired URL.

1 17. A system for locating a resource, comprising:  
2 an association module operable to query an association service, supplying a  
3 session identifier, in order to identify an identity service managing resource data; and  
4 an application operable to:  
5 provide an interface having instructions to send association data to the  
6 association service, the association data to contain a client identifier and a  
7 session identifier for the provided interface;  
8 acquire resource data from an identity service identified by a query  
9 from the association module; and  
10 locate the resource using the resource data.

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1           18.     The system of Claim 17, wherein:  
2           the application is further operable to provide the interface in the form of a web  
3 page having instructions to send association data containing a cookie and the URL  
4 for the provided web page; and  
5           the association module is further operable to provide the URL and query the  
6 association service for an URL for the identity service.

1           19.     A document production system, comprising:  
2           an association module operable to query an association service, supplying a  
3 session identifier in order to identify an identity service managing resource data; and  
4           a document production application operable to:  
5                     provide an interface having content for sending association data  
6                     containing a session identifier for the provided interface to an  
7                     association service as well as content for displaying controls for  
8                     selecting production options;  
9                     acquire resource data from an identity service identifier  
10                    identified by a query from the association module;  
11                    locate and access a document management service using the  
12                    resource data; and  
13                    provide, for the interface, additional content for displaying  
14                    controls for selecting a document managed by the document  
15                    management service; and  
16                    produce a document according to selections made through the  
17                    interface.

1           20.     A system for locating a resource, comprising:  
2           an identity service operable to manage resource data;  
3           an association server operable to receive association data containing a client  
4 identifier and a session identifier, save the association data in an association table,  
5 and receive queries for the association table;  
6           an association table interface in communication with the association server  
7 and operable, according to a received query, to access from the association table a  
8 session identifier for the identity service using a session identifier supplied with the  
9 query;

10 an association module operable to query, supplying a session identifier, the  
11 association service in order to identify the identity service;  
12 an application operable to:  
13 provide an interface having instructions to send association data to an  
14 association server, the association data to contain a client identifier and a  
15 session identifier for the provided interface;  
16 acquire resource data from the identity service identified by a query  
17 from the association module; and  
18 locate the resource using the resource data.

1 21. The system of Claim 20, wherein:  
2 the application is further operable to provide the interface in the form of a web  
3 page having instructions to send association data containing a cookie and the URL  
4 for the provided web page;  
5 the association module is further operable to provide the URL interface and  
6 query the association service for an URL for the identity service; and  
7 the association table interface is further operable to locate an entry in the  
8 association table containing the provided URL, identify the cookie in the located  
9 entry, identify other entries containing that cookie, and, from those other entries,  
10 acquire an URL for the identity service; and  
11 the application is further operable to use the acquired URL to acquire  
12 resource data from the identity service.

1 22. A document production system, comprising:  
2 a document management service;  
3 an identity service operable to manage resource data for locating and  
4 accessing the document management service;  
5 an association server operable to receive association data containing a client  
6 identifier and a session identifier, save the association data in an association table,  
7 and receive queries for the association table;  
8 an association table interface in communication with the association server  
9 and operable, according to a received query, to access from the association table a

10 session identifier for the identity service using the session identifier supplied with the  
11 query;

12 an association module operable to query, supplying a session identifier, the  
13 association service in order to identify the identity service;

14 a document production application operable to:

15 provide an interface having content for sending association data  
16 containing a client identifier and a session identifier for the provided  
17 interface to an association service as well as content for displaying  
18 controls for selecting production options;

19 acquire resource data from an identity service using the session  
20 identifier for the identity service identified by a query from the  
21 association module;

22 locate and access the document management service using the  
23 resource data;

24 provide, for the interface, additional content for displaying  
25 controls for selecting a document managed by the document  
26 management service; and

27 produce a document according to selections made through the  
28 interface.

1 23. The system of Claim 22, wherein:

2 the association table interface is further operable to locate an entry in the  
3 association table containing the session identifier supplied with a query, identify the  
4 client identifier in the located entry, identify other entries containing that client  
5 identifier, and, from those other entries, acquire a session identifier for the Identity  
6 service; and

7 the document production application is further operable to use the acquired  
8 session identifier for the identity service to acquire resource data from the identity  
9 service.

1 24. A system for locating a resource, comprising:

2 a means for querying, supplying a session identifier, an association service in  
3 order to identify an identity service managing resource data;



4 a means for providing an interface having instructions to send association  
5 data to the association service, the association data to contain a client identifier and  
6 a session identifier for the provided interface;

7 a means for acquiring resource data from an identity service identified by a  
8 query; and

9 a means for locating the resource using the resource data.

1 25. A document production system, comprising:

2 a means for querying, supplying a session identifier, an association service in  
3 order to identify an identity service managing resource data;

4 a means for providing an interface having content for sending association  
5 data containing a session identifier for the provided interface to the association  
6 service as well as content for displaying controls for selecting production options;

7 a means for acquiring resource data from an identity service identifier  
8 identified by a query;

9 a means for locating and accessing a document management service using  
10 the resource data;

11 a means for providing, for the interface, additional content for displaying  
12 controls for selecting a document managed by the document management service;  
13 and

14 a means for producing a document according to selections made through the  
15 interface.